

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT

OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

5 a first binder resin;

a second binder resin different from said first binder resin and having a glass transition temperature of from 40 to 55 °C;

a colorant; and

10 a release agent, and

a particulate resin material which is located on a surface of the toner particles with a coverage of from 50 to 100 %, and which has a glass transition temperature of from 50 to 90 °C,

wherein a weight ratio (W2/W1) between the second binder 15 resin (W2) and the first binder resin (W1) is from 5/95 to 40/60, and wherein a ratio (G'80/G'180) between a storage modulus of the toner at 80 °C (G'80) and a storage modulus at 180 °C (G'180) is from 100 to 1,000.

20 2. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the G'80 is from 1×10^5 to 5×10^7 Pa and the G'180 is from 5×10^2 to 3×10^3 Pa.

3. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the G'80 is from 1×10^5 to 5×10^6 Pa and the G'180 is from 5×10^2 to 3×10^3 Pa.

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4. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the first binder resin comprises a polyester resin.

5. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the second binder resin comprises a modified polyester resin.

5 6. The toner of Claim 1, having a volume-average particle diameter of from 4.0 to 7.0 μm .

7. The toner of Claim 6, wherein a ratio (D_v/D_n) between the volume-average particle diameter (D_v) and a number-average 10 particle diameter (D_n) of the toner is from 1.00 to 1.20.

8. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the first binder resin has an acid value of from 1 to 30 mg KOH/g.

15 9. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the particulate resin material is a resin selected from the group consisting of vinyl resins, polyurethane resins, epoxy resins, polyester resins, and mixtures thereof.

20 10. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the particulate resin material has an average particle diameter of from 5 to 200 nm.

25 11. The toner of Claim 1, wherein the particulate resin material has a volume-average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 100,000.

12. The toner of Claim 1, having an average circularity

of from 0.940 to 1.000.

13. The toner of Claim 1, having a spindle shape.

5 14. The toner of Claim 13, wherein a ratio (r_2/r_1) between
a major axis particle diameter (r_1) and a minor axis particle
diameter (r_2) of the toner is from 0.5 to 0.8 and a ratio (r_3/r_2)
between a thickness (r_3) and the minor axis particle diameter
(r_2) thereof is from 0.7 to 1.0

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15. A developer comprising a carrier and the toner
according to Claim 1.

16. A container containing the toner according to Claim

15 1.

17. A container containing the developer according to Claim
15.

20 18. A method of producing the toner according to Claim
1, comprising:

25 dissolving or dispersing a toner composition comprising
the first binder resin and the second binder resin comprising
a modified polyester resin in an organic solvent to prepare a
solution or a dispersion;

mixing the solution or the dispersion with a compound
having an active hydrogen atom in an aqueous medium comprising

the particulate resin material to react the modified polyester with the compound to prepare a reactant;

removing the organic solvent from the reactant to prepare the toner particles; and

- 5 washing the toner particles to remove excessive particles of the particulate resin material from a surface thereof.